



Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

**FREQUENTLY USED
PHONE NUMBERS**

Emergency Services
TPD & TFD
DIAL 911

Permits 791-5550
Housing Assistance
791-4739

TCC - 791-5522

Code Enforcement &
Graffiti removal
792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick up &
Environmental
Services 791-3171

Transportation &
Street Maintenance
- 791-3154

Tucson Water
Billing - 791-3242
Public Info. - 791-4331

Personal Blog at:
badger73.blogspot.com

Also online at
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City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

September 2011

A LETTER FROM COUNCILMEMBER FIMBRES

Dear Friends:

Since I last wrote you, many things have happened for our City:

CITY MANAGER

On September 13, a change to the City Manager was made. By the action taken, under the City Code (Section 2-2), Richard Miranda, then Deputy City Manager, became the interim City Manager. This Mayor and Council, by concurrence, asked that information about the process on how a national search for a new City Manager is conducted be gathered, including a cost and a time frame, and that a process will not start until the new Mayor and Council are seated. I want to thank Mike Letcher and wish him the best in his future endeavors but it is paramount that a smooth transition occurs now, as we are still not out of the woods, since the economy is still trying to turn around and the potential for further budgetary shortfalls through actions by the Arizona Legislature, or the decrease in sales tax revenues.

No decision on what type of search has been made yet. The last three searches have used different models – a national search in 2000, a state search in 2005 and the promotion of the interim City Manager in 2009. Following the November election, the new Mayor and Council, will have a say in determining which process will be used, as well as making the selection of the next person to be the City Manager. The new Mayor and Council will not be the only people taking part in this selection, Tucson's taxpayers will also have a say, it is your government. If you have ideas or thoughts, call the Ward 5 Council Office (520) 791-4231, or Email to ward5@tucsonaz.gov, subject line – City Manager. I want to hear from you and I am meeting with community leaders about the Manager's position and the state of our City. My office will be holding community forums on the City Manager's position in the foreseeable future.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Due to the budget situation, departments are reorganizing their structures and services, reclassifying employee positions, such as in Parks and Recreation, to provide the services with less funding and staff. Now through December 31, several Department Directors, such as Jim Glock with Transportation and Cindy Bezaury with Human Resources, Deputy Directors and Supervisors, and other city employees, totaling more than 200, are leaving their employment, through the end of service program (retirement) with the City of Tucson.

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Help those who are in need. Give to the Community food Bank. For more information, call 520-622-0525

All stakeholders in our community, from business owners to citizens, must take part during these discussions and consider what type of government they want and inform their Councilmember. Most importantly Tucsonans must know what is going on about the selection process to the consideration of individuals for these specialized positions, such as department directors, deputy directors and other important posts, such as the Zoning Examiner, since Mr. Peter Gavin, who has done a great job, is retiring as well.

Ward 5 will be holding a series of meetings and town halls on this in the near future. I want to thank our City Employees, and those leaving service for the work they have done, through this very tough, economic time. We have asked a lot of our employees and they have responded.

RICHARD MIRANDA

Richard Miranda has served our community, from a police officer to Chief of Tucson's Police Department. When asked, he returned to community service becoming Tucson's Deputy City Manager. Now during this time, Richard Miranda is our City Manager. He is naming his team to make the City function as efficiently as possible.

Miranda is bringing people with institutional knowledge, as well as people with the expertise to help make Tucson's government continue to run well. I am looking forward to working with Richard Miranda and his new team, and look forward to the ideas and innovations to come from his office.

CONGRATULATIONS CHIEF CRITCHLEY

I want to congratulate Jim Critchley as the new Fire Chief for the Tucson Fire Department (TFD). Chief Critchley has served as interim Fire Chief since February 2011. Chief Critchley, a native Tucsonan, began his firefighting career in 1984. He has been with the Tucson Fire Department since 1988 and was promoted to Fire Captain in 1997. He became an Operations Battalion Chief in 2000 and was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief in 2009.

"I am honored to accept the position of Fire Chief for the Tucson Fire Department," Critchley said. "I look forward to serving the community as well as the men and women of the Tucson Fire Department." In 2008, Critchley was awarded the Fire Chief of the Year Award by the Arizona State Fire Chiefs Association. He is currently the president of the Western Fire Chiefs Association, which has allowed him to work closely with National leaders.

Chief Critchley's heart is with TFD and our community. He has stepped up to the plate many times, most recently with the situation with Tucson's 911 communication system, providing updates and restoring the trust in the system. I look forward to working with Chief Critchley to make TFD, an even better community service.

CITY OF TUCSON 2011 ELECTION

The August 30, Mayor and Council primary election marked a turning point in the City of Tucson election process. This was the first election, conducted through an all, vote

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by mail process. A total of 44,507 ballots were cast in this primary election - was more than the ballots cast in the 2007 primary election, a total of 31,828 and the 2009 primary election, with 12,196, combined. In fact, this is the most ballots cast in a primary election for the City of Tucson since 1999, when 39,365 votes were tallied.

I want to thank our City Clerk, Roger Randolph and his staff for their work in the first, vote by mail, primary election. This is a good start, because it gets more people to participate in the election process, which was the primary reason Ward 5 brought this proposal to the mayor and council.

Remember, the last day to register to vote for the 2011 City of Tucson general election is Tuesday, October 11.

Ballots for the 2011 City of Tucson general election will be mailed out October 19, and the election will take place Tuesday, November 8. For more information, call the Tucson City Clerk's office, 791-4213.

There are no excuses in exercising your democratic right to vote. This process has been made easier for you. I challenge registered Ward 5 voters to participate and increase turnout.

1.4 DIOXANE

On a weekly basis, as part of our Agenda, Mayor and Council is provided background information related to the discovery of 1,4-dioxane in the area of the Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP). The TARP facility is not designed to remove 1,4-dioxane, and Tucson Water (TW) has worked to meet health advisory levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by blending water leaving the TARP plant with water from uncontaminated sources.

Water pumped and treated from the TARP cleanup location is not delivered to the south side of Tucson, but is delivered to a v-shaped zone located north of downtown, extending northeast to approximately River Road and Country Club, and to Sunset Road and Silverbell Road to the west. 1,4-dioxane was used as a stabilizer in industrial solvents in aircraft manufacturing facilities from the 1940s to the 1970s and has been found in groundwater at the Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP) well field. Though the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not currently regulate 1,4-dioxane, it does issue health advisories as guidelines for drinking water utilities.

In January 2011, the EPA issued a new health advisory for 1,4-dioxane of 0.35 parts per billion, significantly lower than the previous advisory of 3.0 parts per billion. With this new, lower advisory level, Tucson Water is in the process of designing and constructing a new treatment facility to be located at the existing TARP Treatment Facility. This new facility will utilize advanced oxidation technology to effectively remove 1,4-dioxane from water.

Mayor and Council asked that residents be notified and kept updated. City staff have reviewed and updated an informational pamphlet explaining about 1,4-dioxane. In addition, a special mailing has been sent out to residences and businesses that are located within the delivery zone of water leaving the TARP facility, as well as those in the TARP area. The special mailing includes a correspondence (in English and Spanish) that informs of the situation as well as the informational pamphlet.

The Ward 5 office has provided additional copies of the mailing to the El Pueblo Senior Center, Cherry Avenue Neighborhood Center, the Quincie Douglas Center and the Quin-

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cie Douglas Library. Residents interested in reviewing progress of the TARP cleanup process are encouraged to attend the next quarterly meeting of the Unified Community Action Board (UCAB) on Wed., Oct. 19, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, 101 W. Irvington Rd.

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY (C OF O) MARKS FIRST YEAR

Thanks to the changes brought by my office, supported by my colleagues on the Council and implemented by Ernie Duarte and his fine staff at Development Services, more than 70 new businesses have opened up across the City. The new process streamlines the Certificate of Occupancy inspection and certification process. In addition to this major step, changes to the Land Use Code and parking requirements and other zoning measures, more than \$426 million in commercial development permits have been taken out, according to Planning and Development Services.

Remember, Tucson relies on sales tax revenue to generate the funding needed for police, fire protection, transportation, parks and recreation, as well as other government services for Tucsonans. Pima County's government's funding, which comes from property taxes. For City programs and services to continue at a level Tucsonans expected, more revenue must be generated through sales taxes.

P-CARD UPDATE

My office has led the effort to change how the City purchases materials by utilizing the P-Card, instead of writing checks. To be implemented over the next two years, with a potential savings of more than \$10,000,000 dollars.

As a reminder, the P-Card (Procurement Card) is a card, similar to a credit card. It offers a rebate for usage, as well as a savings for transaction costs and processing - from \$92 cost per completion of a transaction (check) to \$20 (P-Card). The City of Tucson also gets a rebate for using the P-Card, which has increased 15% over this past fiscal year to \$215,000.

In this current fiscal year (FY 2012), the rebate will be \$393,000, thanks to Mayor and Council actions taken in August to get more use from the P-card program.

WARD 5 IN ACTION

Your Ward 5 Council office has done the following:

Brought forward changes to repealing the 2003 policy, restricting advertising on Sun Tran buses (inside/outside), to 15 out of a fleet of 244. Result - Seven buses now have advertising wraps - bringing in a new amount of \$147,000.

Repealing the previous policy of not soliciting advertising or sponsorships for the Bus Route Guide, Tickets, or any other Sun Tran materials. This will allow for additional funding to sustain current services.

Brought forward changes to repeal the 1986 city code restricting Parks and Recreation from soliciting advertising and sponsorships. My office is presently working on a private/public partnership and sponsorship plan to help Parks and Recreation with the operation of its pools program.

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At the August meeting, I made the motion to have the rental fees AT&T would have paid the City for a Cell Tower in our Ward, \$100,000, which would have gone directly into the general fund and directed it toward opening the closed pools. Thanks to Councilmember Karin Uhlich, the Ward 3 contribution from the O and M savings of the Pascua Center and this, a total of \$193,000 of the \$650,000 needed has been raised so far.

At the August Mayor and Council meeting, I brought forward a proposal to repeal the \$5,000 non-refundable application fees the real estate office charged for processing transactions for easements and temporary revocable easements.

This fee had inhibited development projects. According to Planning and Development Services, repealing this fee has allowed construction and development in the City of Tucson to flourish.

My office, along with Ward 4 Councilmember Shirley Scott, brought forward a proposal, approved by my colleagues, for the Global Economic Development District - to have the Mayor and Council review federal and state economic initiatives, currently being offered, that the City hopes to utilize.

BOMBARDIER EXPANDS BUSINESS

Congratulations to Canadian aircraft maker Bombardier Aerospace, located in Ward 5, is expanding its service center, already hiring 116 workers this year while looking for future expansion opportunities here.

Bombardier in partnership with PCC, has had a great program in training workers for their business and the airline industry.

WALMART UPDATE

Wal-Mart - a 156,000 square foot supercenter (through the Mar. 27, 2007 planning and development agreement by Mayor and Council), will be starting construction of the supercenter at the Bridges Project. Right now, there is road construction for this project ongoing. Expected start time for construction to start, is this fall, with a timeline of 10 months to build. It will create 400 new jobs. Quincie Douglas, South Park, Las Vistas, Pueblo Gardens and Western Hills neighborhoods worked hard for this Wal-Mart with a grocery store. Congratulations to them for this achievement.

Ward 5 has also asked Wal-Mart to use a local construction company to build their new supercenter like our friends at Costco did, which put more than 100 people from Borderlands Construction to work.

DON PEDRO'S HAS FIRST BIRTHDAY!

Thursday, September 15, Don Pedro's Peruvian Bistro, located at 3386 S. 6th in my Ward, celebrated its first anniversary in business. Congratulations to Pedro Gonzvar and his fine staff for serving wonderful food to Tucson and good luck in your second year.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Tuesday, October 4, 5:30 pm, Bravo Park Neighborhood Association and the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association will be holding their national night out event at Van Buskirk Elementary, 725 E. Fair. For more information, call the Ward 5 Council office, 791-4231.

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Also on October 4, The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association will be holding their annual, national night out, at Holy Trinity Church, 5951 S. 12th, from 5:30 to 8 pm. For more information, call the Ward 5 Council Office.

VAMOS A TUCSON

Tickets are on sale for the Vamos a Tucson Mexican Baseball Fiesta, to be held October 7 - 9 at Kino Stadium (2500 E. Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85713) in Tucson. The round robin tournament will consist of a doubleheader each day – Friday and Saturday games, begin at 4:00, Sunday's games will begin at 1:00. There will be a three hour time limit on the first game each day. The featured game will be the Naranjeros vs. Yaquis in the late game on Saturday.

“We have received an overwhelming response for the Vamos a Tucson Mexican Baseball Fiesta,” said Tucson Padres Vice President and General Manager Mike Feder. “We plan on producing an atmosphere as similar to the Pacific League of Mexico’s regular season as possible as far as music, entertainment, and food. The teams have been very accommodating. Ticket prices are as follows: Reserved Seats: \$12, General Admission: \$8 for Adults / \$7 for children 6-16, seniors age 55 and older, and military (with ID), Groups 20 or More: \$10 for Reserved Seats and \$6 for General Admission, 3-Day Pass: \$30 for Reserved Seat (same seat for all three days). Tickets can be purchased in person at Kino Stadium, on the phone by calling (520) 434-1367 or online via www.tucsonpadres.com.

U.S. – MEXICO BORDER MAYOR’S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

I represented our City at the second conference of the U.S.-Mexico Border Mayor’s Association conference in El Paso, Texas. I also had the honor of representing the City of Tucson, which hosted the inaugural, organizing meeting in January of this year. A total of 17 Mayors and representatives from cities in the U.S. and Mexico were present for the meeting in El Paso and the Association voted unanimously, to pass a resolution, to tell both the U.S. and Mexico governments, that our number one priority of reducing border wait times and insuring that security is not compromised .

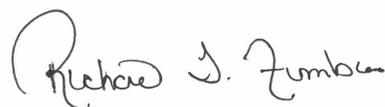
BIOPARK AND BRIDGES PROJECTS HONORED BY MPA

Your Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges and the U of A Biopark were named finalist for the Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) Common Ground Awards. Congratulations to Bruce Wright of the U of A, Eric Davis, Jim Portner, Byron Howard, Ernie Duarte and his staff at Development Services, Hector Martinez of Real Estate for their work, as well as the neighborhoods, Costco and the other City staff that made these projects a reality.

I hope you and your loved ones had a good month and may October bring you, an even better time.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween.

Peace.



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward V Councilmember